UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/45/30
5 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 118

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Conference services at Vienna

Report of the Secretary-General

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, in section VIII of its resolution 44/201 A of 21 December 1989, endorsed the view of the Secretary-General 1/ that a single conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre would represent the ideal solution from the standpoint of cost efficiency and that a unified service operated by the United Nations would be best equipped to promote the most efficient and effective use of scarce resources. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to "take appropriate measures with a view to expediting consultations with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other interested parties on the subject and to making practical arrangements for the establishment of a unified conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 4 of its report". 2/

2. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General, "taking into account views previously expressed by the Assembly, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee, to take early action to reopen consultations with all interested parties on this subject, with a view to arriving at practical arrangements for the establishment of unified conference services at Vienna at the earliest possible date" and had proposed that the Secretary-General "submit a report on the outcome of these consultations to the General Assembly, at the latest, by its forty-fifth session". 3/

3. In compliance with the above request, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments and other officials of the Secretariat

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held consultations with their counterparts at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during April and May 1990. There was a useful exchange of views, but no conclusive agreements were reached. The Joint Advisory Committee for Conference Services at Vienna established in February 1986, upon agreement between the executive heads of the United Nations Office at Vienna, UNIDO and IAEA, resumed its meetings early in May 1990 and is expected to present its findings and recommendations to the Directors-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, UNIDO and IAEA during the first quarter of 1991.

II. PRESENT SITUATION

4. Developments between 1987 and 1989 were described in the report of the Secretary-General on conference services at Vienna submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. 1/ At present, the joint UNIDO/United Nations conference services administered by UNIDO provide translation, terminology and reference services, typing/word-processing services, editorial and documents control services and publishing and distribution services for conferences and meetings of UNIDO and the United Nations. Most of the established posts for these services are included in the staffing table of UNIDO and financed from the regular budget of that organization, although a substantial portion of the translation and support posts are financed under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget. The United Nations operates a joint United Nations/UNIDO meetings planning and interpretation service with the established posts included in section 29 of the programme budget of the United Nations. IAEA maintains a separate conference service, although it does, on occasion, use the services of interpreters assigned to the joint United Nations/UNIDO interpretation service on a cost-reimbursable basis. Under a Memorandum of Understanding of 1977 concerning the organization of common services at the Vienna International Centre, IAEA provides printing and reproduction services to all organizations at the Centre. In addition, UNIDO maintains a limited reproduction capacity, used mainly for in-session documentation.

5. The conference-servicing resources now available at the Vienna International Centre are described in greater detail in the annex to the present report.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED CONFERENCE SERVICES

A. Criteria of the Joint Inspection Unit

6. In the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on common services at the Vienna International Centre, 4/ the Inspectors referred with approval to the following principles which the three organizations of the Vienna International Centre had developed to guide them in their review of the Memorandum of Understanding of 1977:

(a) Common services are established for the purpose of realizing economies without loss of effectiveness, efficiency or quality of the service;

(b) Common services must be viewed as a partnership.

7. The Inspectors observed that these two principles implied that common services must offer:

(a) Cost-benefit for all participants;

(b) Effectiveness, efficiency and quality of services;

(c) Partnership in the operation of services.

8. To these points, the Inspectors added the following considerations to be kept in mind in reviewing proposals for common services:

(a) Whenever more than one organization of the United Nations system is based in the same city, the use of common service arrangements should be considered as a matter of course;

(b) All administrative services should be subject to investigation for common arrangements;

(c) In selecting the most suitable organization to provide the service, the twin attributes of experience and availability of resources (financial, human and physical) remain paramount.

9. The Inspectors also considered that it would be useful to apply additional criteria to determining whether a particular service is suitable for administration as a common service. They are reproduced below:

(a) Policy objectives:

Does the service require setting major policy objectives for its proper functioning? If it does, and there are likely to be objectives that are fundamentally different between organizations, and if these objectives cannot be made compatible, then admittance to common arrangements will be circumspect.

(b) Responsibility:

Would the pooling of services impinge upon the ability of the participating organizations to discharge efficiently their responsibilities?

(c) Confidentiality:

Would the degree of confidentiality required in the operation of the service be such as to cause rejection?

(d) Conflict of priorities:

Is there likely to be a conflict of priorities between the provider of services and the user? Are these so fundamental that they cannot be resolved?

(e) Employer/employee relationship:

Is the legal and personal bond between employer and employee likely to be impaired?

B. Application of criteria in the 1987 review

10. These criteria set forth by JIU were applied by the Joint Advisory Committee for Conference Services in its 1987 study. The Committee concluded that conference services were suitable in principle for operation as a common service, although some reservations were expressed by the representatives of IAEA. One of the reservations related to the requirement that IAEA interpreters and translators have very strong specialized technical qualifications, although they need not have passed the United Nations competitive examination. Representatives of IAEA also expressed concern about the establishment of appropriate priorities for work in a common service; representatives of UNIDO and of the United Nations, on the other hand, stated that no significant problems had been encountered in establishing priorities in their joint services.

11. Once it was decided that conference services would, in principle, be suitable for operation as a common service, it was then necessary to consider whether a common conference service would meet the criteria of economy, effectiveness and efficiency. There was agreement that the provision of high quality interpretation services was essential to the ability of the organizations to discharge their responsibilities efficiently, and a common service would have to respond fully to that requirement. Conflicts of priorities were recognized as a possibility but could be avoided in a well run service. With respect to employer-employee relationships, interim arrangements would have to be found to accommodate the present regular staff of IAEA within a common service since they had not necessarily passed the United Nations interpreter examination.

C. Assessment of the present situation

12. In the view of the United Nations, the 1987 review did not reveal any major obstacles to the establishment of a unified conference service. The policy objectives of the service are the same for all three organizations; the pooling of services would not impinge upon the ability of the participating organizations to discharge their responsibilities efficiently; and confidentiality does not pose a problem.

13. The present arrangements between the United Nations and UNIDO for conference servicing at Vienna, adopted at the time of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, were intended to cover a brief transitional period until more permanent arrangements could be decided upon on the basis of an analysis of the experience and the actual requirements of the Vienna-based organizations and the necessary budgetary and administrative arrangements could be concluded. The delay in deciding upon more permanent arrangements has meant that the full benefits which a unified conference service could offer have not been realized, and has resulted in hardships for the conference-servicing staff, who were specifically not included

in the agreement between the United Nations and UNIDO on the contractual status of staff and therefore are uncertain as to their prospects for career development. These staff members hold United Nations letters of appointment but are not fully integrated into the career development system of the United Nations.

14. The generally satisfactory technical operation of the joint services administered by the United Nations and UNIDO respectively has demonstrated that the operation of a common service would not present insurmountable problems of observing proper priorities and ensuring that appropriate, high quality and timely services are provided to each organization. The conviction that conference servicing is, both in principle and in practice, well suited to administration as a common service seems justified by experience to date: both UNIDO and the United Nations have expressed satisfaction with the technical quality of the operation of the joint services and both would be prepared to administer conference services as a common service.

15. Since all of the activities of conference servicing are part of a single integrated process, the two joint services should now be combined to form a single unified service for both the United Nations and UNIDO. This would respond to the recommendations of JIU and ACABQ and would leave open the possibility of eventual participation of other Vienna-based organizations, including IAEA, should they find it to their advantage to join the common service.

16. In its report on conference services at Vienna, 2/ ACABQ expressed particular doubts about the reliability of work-load and meeting statistics for Vienna, noting inconsistencies in information provided. It may be recalled that such information provides the basis for allocating the costs of joint services. In addition, ACABQ pointed to inconsistencies in the budgetary presentations of the United Nations and UNIDO for conference services at Vienna, concluding that there was an apparent absence of co-ordination between the two organizations with regard to reporting the estimated costs of the services apportioned between them. These observations highlight problems of control and co-ordination arising from the continuation of the transitional arrangements adopted following the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency under which posts are loaned from one organization to the other and it is necessary to account for income and expenditure in both organizations.

17. In addition to the benefits of economy and increased efficiency that were mentioned in the 1987 review, therefore, the establishment of a unified common service, for which provision would be made in the budget of the managing organization and with the cost of services provided to other organizations being reimbursed on the basis of agreed cost-sharing arrangements, would give Member States a clear picture of the total cost of conference services and the relative costs to each participating organization. The burden of administrative and accounting functions would be minimized, and all conference servicing staff would be administered under the same set of rules, with the same opportunities for career development. Furthermore, as has been mentioned in previous reports, in view of the relative levels of conference-servicing requirements, it is anomalous for the United Nations not to be responsible for unified or joint conference services at the Centre. 5/

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18. There are several benefits to assigning responsibility for the administration of the common service to the United Nations: by virtue of its long experience and well-established policies and procedures, the United Nations could ensure the timeliness and quality of conference services. Its global resources would permit it to provide such services in the most efficient and effective manner.

19. The JIU report recommended that, in selecting the most suitable organization to provide the common service, "the twin attributes of experience and availability of resources (financial, human and physical) remain paramount". In both respects, the United Nations would seem to be the most suitable organization. It has long experience in the establishment, organization and administration of conference services throughout the world, and it can draw upon a great reservoir of resources to meet a diversity of requirements in a timely, efficient and effective manner, while maintaining high standards of quality of service.

20. Of all the resources required for conference servicing, the most important by far are the language staff themselves. The United Nations has demonstrated over many years its ability to recruit, train and retain a large, well-qualified language staff and to provide a full range of services for a wide variety of intergovernmental meetings and conferences. The well-established and proven system of competitive examinations for language staff ensures the recruitment of staff of a high calibre whose qualifications and skills are further developed through a variety of in-service and formal training arrangements. Moreover, the career opportunities offered by a global network of conference servicing attract and retain highly competent and dedicated staff.

21. Physical resources are also important in order to use skilled language staff with maximum effectiveness and efficiency. Here again, the United Nations can offer important advantages through the application of technological innovations to many aspects of conference servicing. Word processing is now established in all six official languages, and the advanced telecommunications links being established between all major conference centres, including Vienna, permit the rapid transmission of documents in electronic form, so that the work-load can be shared by several duty stations to ensure optimal utilization of the available resources. Since the standards for the recruitment and promotion of language staff are the same world wide, this transfer of work can be done with no reduction in quality. Moreover, the capacity to share work globally among core staff reduces the reliance upon more costly temporary assistance.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. For the reasons outlined above, the Secretary-General remains firmly convinced that a single conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre would represent the ideal solution from the point of view of cost efficiency and that, in view of its mandate to provide a full range of servicing operations for its deliberative bodies, the United Nations is best suited to assume the responsibility of providing conference services to all organizations at the Centre. Short of this, a single unified service provided by the United Nations for itself and UNIDO would provide most of the benefits anticipated from fully unified conference services at the Centre.

23. Should the General Assembly agree with these conclusions, it may wish to invite the governing bodies of UNIDO and IAEA to consider the establishment of unified conference services at the Vienna International Centre as from the biennium 1992-1993. The Assembly may also wish to request the Secretary-General to formulate specific detailed proposals for such a service to assist the governing bodies of UNIDO and IAEA in considering this question. In that case, the Assembly may further wish to request ACABQ to review such proposals at its spring session in 1991 and authorize their submission to the governing bodies of UNIDO and IAEA.

24. The scheduling implicit in these suggestions would not permit the inclusion of such proposals in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Accordingly, the Secretary-General would propose to include provisions for conference services at Vienna in the proposed programme budget at the revalued maintenance base level and submit revised estimates to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, based on the reaction of the other organizations concerned and on the guidance of the Assembly at its current session.

Notes

1/ A/C.5/44/24.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.4.

3/ Ibid., para. 4.

4/ A/39/520.

5/ A/C.5/42/22.

Annex

DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING FACILITIES
AT THE VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

A. Documents control

1. There are two documents control units in the Vienna International Centre, one administered by UNIDO as a joint UNIDO/United Nations service, the other operated by IAEA. The functions and staffing of these units have not changed since 1987.

2. The UNIDO/United Nations Documents Control Unit comprises one Professional (P-3) and six General Service posts; the Professional and five of the General Service posts being established posts under the UNIDO budget for 1990-1991, and the remaining General Service post coming under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium, from which additional support is also provided from temporary assistance funds. The IAEA Documents Control Unit comprises one supervisor (G-8) and seven other General Service staff, of whom two are statistics clerks charged to the Common Printing Service. The functions of the two units are similar, but the IAEA unit has an additional function of job costing and production planning as part of the Common Printing Service administered by IAEA.

B. Editorial control

3. There are two units in the Vienna International Centre concerned with editorial work; one is in IAEA and the other is a joint UNIDO/United Nations service administered by UNIDO. The functions of the two units differ somewhat. In UNIDO the unit is now part of a combined Editorial Control and Publications Section consisting of 16 Professional and 54 General Service posts; previously editorial control and publications had been separate organizational units. Most editing of documentation relating to meetings of UNIDO policy-making organs is done by the secretariats of the policy-making organs.

4. IAEA does not have a separate unit specifically responsible for editorial control, but it does have an editing unit within the Publishing Section which is responsible for editing all material for sales publications, carrying out a second proofreading of the typeset pages and checking the final page make-up before books go to press. The unit also advises scientific and technical staff on the preparation of manuscripts. The unit is staffed by 14 editors (10 English, 1 French, 1 Spanish, 1 Russian and 1 Chinese) and 3 General Service staff (2 proofreaders and 1 secretary).

C. Translation and typing

5. There are two translation services at the Vienna International Centre: one a joint UNIDO/United Nations service administered by UNIDO and the other the translation service of IAEA. Their functions have not changed since 1987, although

four of the General Service posts financed under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget were eliminated at the end of 1989 as a result of the overall post-reduction exercise carried out in compliance with General Assembly resolution 41/213.

6. The UNIDO/United Nations joint translation and typing service comprises a total of 60 Professional and 60 General Service posts. Of these, 20 Professional and 15 General Service posts are established posts under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget. The remainder are established posts under the regular budget of UNIDO as part of the Languages and Documentation Division. To supplement these resources, translators are recruited on temporary assignment during periods of peak work-load, and there are also provisions for contractual translation services in all official languages. The Translation Service includes a UNIDO/United Nations reference and terminology unit consisting of one Professional and eight General Service staff (the Professional and five of the General Service posts are established posts under UNIDO's regular budget while three General Service posts are financed under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget). The typing pools use Wang word processing for all languages except Chinese and are electronically linked to New York and Geneva.

7. The IAEA Division of Languages forms an independent division within the Department of Administration. It translates documents and publications into and from the official languages of the Agency (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian) and occasionally into and from other languages as well. It also prepares summary records of meetings in English and French. The present staffing of this division is 45 Professional staff and 41 General Service staff. There is also a small terminology unit consisting of one P-3 and one G-5 assistant.

D. Meetings planning and servicing

8. There are two meetings planning and servicing units, one joint United Nations/UNIDO Meetings Planning Section administered by the United Nations, and one IAEA unit within the Conference Services Section. The functions of both units are essentially the same. The functions and staffing of these units have not changed since 1987.

9. The United Nations/UNIDO Meetings Planning Section consists of two Professional and three General Service posts established under section 29 of the programme budget of the United Nations and supplementary General Service support funded from temporary assistance funds. During meetings, additional General Service staff are also recruited to provide such necessary services as conference clerks, registration and information clerks, messengers and ushers. Meetings planning and servicing within IAEA is one of the reponsibilities of the Conference Services Section, consisting of three Professional and five General Service staff on established posts in the IAEA budget. The functions of the section are similar to but somewhat broader than the Meetings Planning Section at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

E. Interpretation

10. There are two interpretation services at the Vienna International Centre: one for the United Nations and UNIDO, administered by the United Nations, and one for IAEA; both provide interpretation from and into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The functions of these units have not changed since 1987.

11. The United Nations/UNIDO Interpretation Section is part of the United Nations Meetings Planning and Interpretation Service and consists of 20 Professional and 1 General Service posts established under section 29 of the United Nations programme budget, with additional General Service support funded from temporary assistance. The 20 interpreter posts constitute a full team of interpreters capable of servicing 10 meetings a week. The IAEA Interpretation Section is within the Division of External Relations and consists of eight Professional posts and one General Service post. The present staff provide interpretation from and into English, French, Russian and Spanish; IAEA relies on local and non-local freelance staff and on the United Nations Office at Vienna for Arabic and Chinese interpreters. The present policy of IAEA is to reduce the overall number of regular staff interpreters where possible, while still effectively meeting IAEA's specialized interpretation needs.

F. Documents distribution

12. There are two documents distribution units at the Vienna International Centre: a joint UNIDO/United Nations service administered by UNIDO and a separate IAEA service. The functions of these units have not changed since 1987, but the UNIDO/United Nations unit has now been incorporated into the Editorial Control and Publications Section.

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A/C.5/45/31
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1990

Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/72, which requires action by the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

I. REVISED ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS FIRST AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS, 1990

1. This part of the report deals with the additional requirements resulting from resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1990. In accordance with paragraph 3 of rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Council was provided, when required, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of the resolutions. A summary table of all resolutions for which additional resources are being sought is contained in the annex to the present document.

2. The total estimated additional requirements arising out of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council amount to $656,200 for the year 1991, $560,800 for the biennium 1992-1993 and $2,240,700 for the biennium 1994-1995, totalling $3,457,700. Of that total, an amount of $632,200 relates to activities derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and must, therefore, be considered in the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund for 1990-1991.

3. The total requirements cover both conference-servicing ($1,214,100) and other requirements ($2,243,600) as shown below:

	1991 $	1992-1993 $	1994-1995 $	Total $
Conference-servicing costs	24 000	60 300	1 129 800	1 214 100
Other costs	632 200	500 500	1 110 900	2 243 600
Total	656 200	560 800	2 240 700	3 457 700

4. The estimates of conference-servicing requirements referred to in paragraph 3 above were calculated on a full-cost basis. With regard to the year 1991, the cost estimates for the conference-servicing requirements ($24,000) are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the programme budget and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1990-1991. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.5 of the proposed programme budget, the 1990-1991 level of resources for temporary assistance for activities was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only activities that were programmed but also additional activities. In other words, provision was made in the programme budget not only for activities known at the time of budget preparation but also for activities that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of activities and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was consistent with the pattern of activities in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolutions under consideration. As regards the requirements for the bienniums 1992-1993 ($60,300) and 1994-1995 ($1,129,800) respectively, they will be dealt with at the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budgets for those bienniums.

5. The estimates of requirements for items other than conference-servicing costs amount to $632,200 for the year 1991. These relate to the additional requirements in the current biennium under sections 8, 9 and 13 of the programme budget. This amount is explained and summarized below by resolution and relevant budget section. The manner in which the amounts would be considered within the context of the contingency fund is dealt with in paragraph 18 of the present report.

Resolution 1990/11. Situation of Palestinian women

Section 8. Activities on global social development issues ($31,000)

6. By paragraphs 5, 8 and 9 of the resolution, the Economic and Social Council decided that the group of experts that monitors and investigates the situation of Palestinian women and children inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories should continue to do so in 1991 and report on the subject to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

7. The above-mentioned activities would entail additional costs in relation to travel of experts accompanied by three staff members to the site of events in order to receive on-site information, as well as for travel and per diem of witnesses in order that they might give testimony to the mission of experts in accordance with its mandate. The total costs of the activity is estimated at $40,000, of which the cost of travel of staff and mission operating expenses can be met from the existing appropriation, leaving a balance of $31,000 as additional requirements.

Resolution 1990/71. Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

Section 9. Transnational corporations ($361,200)

8. By paragraphs 1 to 3 of section II of its resolution, the Council requested the Centre on Transnational Corporations to conduct research and prepare specific studies highlighting the role of transnational corporations in relation to environment and development, as well as on ways of promoting greater contribution by transnational corporations to preservation of the environment, including examining the feasibility of financial mechanisms that would encourage transnational corporations and other enterprises of a similar nature to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the environment of developing countries, as called for under paragraph 3 of the resolution.

9. The comprehensive and analytical study would be prepared by the Centre and would address the issues of assessment and review the major political, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development affecting transnational corporations, as called for in General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989.

10. In the context of the preparation of that study, special attention would be placed on reviewing ways to increase the availability of environmentally sound technologies for developing countries and on encouraging and mobilizing transnational corporations and other commercial entities of a similar nature to protect and enhance the global environment while contributing to economic growth and development. To that end, the Centre would undertake a survey of the environmental policies of transnational corporations. Concurrently, the Centre would organize a four-day expert group meeting at Headquarters of senior officials from transnational corporations and representatives of Governments to review specific aspects of contributions by transnational corporations to the activities

of the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to develop channels and arrangements for transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

11. Throughout the process of preparation of the study, consultations would be conducted with officials of major transnational corporations, trade associations and related bodies, as well as with Governments, particularly Governments of developing countries, in order to develop policy options for the Commission and to encourage transnational corporations in related actions in the light of the policy recommendations of the Commission. Furthermore, in line with those objectives, a five-day ad hoc expert group meeting with participation of up to 30 experts from transnational corporations, Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations would be organized at Headquarters in order to assess and review various policy issues in that area and formulate recommendations to the Commission at its seventeenth session.

12. The activities called for in paragraph 3 of the resolution would accordingly focus on the following three subjects:

(a) Development during the 1990-1991 biennium of operational principles for transnational corporations in environmental preservation and protection and their subsequent discussion in consultations with representatives of transnational corporations and specialized agencies and at the ad hoc expert group meeting. Furthermore, the criteria for sustainable development prepared by the Centre in 1989 in the context of the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/25 would be distributed to all interested parties;

(b) Preparation during the 1990-1991 biennium of information guides and directories on hazardous technologies and their environmentally safer alternatives;

(c) Further elaboration in consultation with all interested parties of the feasibility of establishing an environment fund to be financed by transnational corporations that would include consultations during the biennium 1990-1991 with representatives of transnational corporations, preparation on the basis of the 1989 findings on the subject of a draft prospectus outlining alternative arrangements for the environment fund, namely venture capital window arrangements, mutual fund window arrangements and voluntary window arrangements, as well as its terms of reference, field of activities and the related disbursement criteria, and undertaking fund raising activities.

The report on progress made during the biennium 1990-1991 on the above three issues would be submitted by the Centre to the Commission at its seventeenth session.

13. The costs of the activities outlined in paragraphs 9 to 12 above would be as follows:

		Total $
(a)	Comprehensive and analytical study	
(i)	Consultant services	33 100
(ii)	Travel of staff (consultation missions)	37 500
(iii)	Two ad hoc expert group meetings	75 000
(iv)	General temporary assistance for secretarial and substantive conference-servicing support	20 000
	Subtotal	165 600
(b)	Development of operational principles, distribution of the criteria	
(i)	Consultant services	5 300
(ii)	Ad hoc expert group meeting	25 000
(iii)	Travel of staff (consultation missions)	6 500
(iv)	External printing and distribution	5 000
(v)	General temporary assistance for secretarial and substantive conference-servicing support	6 600
	Subtotal	48 400
(c)	Information guides and directories on hazardous technologies and their alternatives	
(i)	Consultant services, including travel	33 100
(ii)	General temporary assistance for secretarial support	16 600
	Subtotal	49 700
(d)	Feasibility of financial mechanisms (environment fund)	
(i)	Consultant services	64 900
(ii)	Travel of staff (consultation missions)	12 000
(iii)	External printing	6 000
(iv)	General temporary assistance	45 100
	Subtotal	128 000
	Total	391 700

14. The requirements estimated in paragraph 13 above are recapitulated as follows:

		Total $
(a)	Consultants	136 400
(b)	Ad hoc expert groups	100 000
(c)	Travel of staff	56 000
(d)	External printing and distribution	11 000
(e)	General temporary assistance	88 300
	Total	391 700

15. It is estimated that the above costs could be partially met from within existing appropriations approved under section 9 of the 1990-1991 programme budget, namely: the 1991 funds relating to consultants and ad hoc expert groups in the amount of $19,500 could be utilized for the purpose. Furthermore, the external printing and distribution costs ($11,000) as estimated above, could be met from within the overall resources programmed under section 9 of the 1990-1991 programme budget for the operational costs of the Centre. The remaining costs totalling $361,200 represent the additional requirements under section 9 of the 1990-1991 programme budget.

Resolution 1990/75. Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa ($240,000)

16. By paragraph 4 of its resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to make available to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) the financial resources required for special multi-sectoral missions to be sent to all States members of the Commission in accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution, to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The implementation of the resolution would require the dispatching of 10 missions from the Commission's secretariat, composed of three staff members each. Each mission would visit five countries of the region, spending seven days in each country. The estimated cost of these multisectoral missions would amount to $240,000 for travel and per diem. Owing to the fact that the activity is not programmed in the 1990-1991 programme budget, the cost would represent additional requirements under section 13.

Contingency fund

17. In summary, the requests contained in the three resolutions described above would give rise to additional requirements in the following sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991:

Budget section	Temporary assistance	Consultants and ad hoc expert groups	Travel of representatives	Travel of staff	Total
	$	$	$	$	$
8. Activities on global social development issues					
- Situation of Palestinian women	-	-	31 000	-	31 000
9. Transnational corporations					
- Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations	88 300	216 900	-	56 000	361 200
13. Economic Commission for Africa					
- Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990)	-	-	-	240 000	240 000
Total	88 300	216 900	31 000	296 000	632 200

18. As indicated above, no provision has been approved in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to undertake the activities enumerated above, for which it is estimated that an amount of $632,200 is required. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Should such adjustment be impracticable, any additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. In this connection, a consolidated statement of all activities that are eligible for resources from the contingency fund will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

19. In the event that it would not be possible to accommodate the new activities called for in the above resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council from the contingency fund, the scope of activities programmed under sections 8, 9 and 13 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, except those of high priority, would have to be modified and some activities deferred to the next biennium in order to offset the additional requirements ($632,200).

20. In conclusion, subject to the guidelines of the contingency fund, additional appropriations of $632,200 are requested as follows:

	$
Section 8	31 000
Section 9	361 200
Section 13	240 000
Total	632 200

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1990/72, WHICH REQUIRES ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21. At its second regular session of 1990, held at Geneva, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/72 entitled "Future of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning". In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Council was provided with a statement of programme budget implications (E/1990/84/Add.2) prior to the adoption of the resolution.

22. By paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Council:

"Called upon the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the inclusion of four key posts for the Institute in the United Nations regular budget, namely, the Director, the Chief of Administration and Finance and two senior lecturers, in line with the recommendation contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985, to enable the Institute to carry out its approved work programme and functions on a continued and sustained basis as stipulated in its Statute;"

23. The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) was established at Dakar by ECA resolution 58 (IV) of 1 March 1962. In accordance with its Statute, the Institute centres around the following types of activities: training, research, advisory and consultancy services, as well as support activities such as the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops.

24. Under its Statute, the Institute is financed by annual contributions from African States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The contributions of African States were initially established at a fixed level with subsequent revisions of that level. The current annual level of those contributions is established in the amount of $1.6 million by ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 433 (XVII) of 30 April 1982. This total contribution is assessed among 50 African countries according to a specific formula based on each country's capacity to pay. UNDP's contribution is provided for within the framework of its successive programming cycles. All of the above contributions are utilized for financing the operations of the Institute, including payment of emoluments to its staff. Over the past few years, the contributions from member States have fallen short of their assessed annual levels to such an extent that the Institute has in fact been depending mainly on UNDP support. UNDP is considering the possibility of withdrawing from the financing of the Institute's activities.

25. The posts referred to in resolution 1990/72 are the following:

(a) Director of the Institute, at the D-1 level;

(b) Chief of Administration and Finance, at the P-5 level;

(c) Two senior lecturers, each at the P-4 level.

26. The inclusion of the above four posts in the regular budget would result in additional requirements for 1991 under section 13 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in the amount of $392,200 for salary and common staff costs. Moreover, an amount of $99,200 would be required for staff assessment under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an equal amount of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

27. No posts can be identified within section 13 of the 1990-1991 programme budget that could be redeployed to the Institute should the General Assembly decide to include the four posts in the regular budget.

28. Therefore, should the General Assembly concur with the Economic and Social Council and approve the inclusion of the above four posts in the regular budget, effective 1 January 1991, an additional appropriation in the amount of $392,200 would be required under section 13 of the 1990-1991 programme budget, subject to the criteria governing the operation and use of the contingency fund. Moreover, an amount of $99,200 would be required for staff assessment under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an equal amount of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

29. In the event that it would not be possible to accommodate the costs of these posts from the contingency fund, the posts would not be included in the programme budget.

Annex

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN 1990

(In United States dollars)

Resolution number	Title	Statement of programme budget implications	Other costs				Conference-servicing costs			
			1991	1992-1993 a/	1994-1995 a/	Total	1991	1992-1993 a/	1994-1995 a/	Total
1990/11	Situation of Palestinian Women	E/1990/25/Add.1	31 000	-	-	31 000	24 000	-	-	24 000
1990/12	World Conference on Women in 1995	E/1990/25/Add.1	-	496 300	1 110 900	1 607 200	-	-	1 129 800	1 129 800
1990/21	Implementation of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	E/1990/31	-	4 200	-	4 200	-	60 300	-	60 000
1990/71	Activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations	E/1990/26/Add.1	361 200	-	-	361 200	-	-	-	-
1990/75	Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990	E/1990/84/Add.4	240 000	-	-	240 000	-	-	-	-
	Total		632 200	500 500	1 110 900	2 243 600	24 000	60 300	1 129 800	1 214 100

a/ At 1990 rates.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/45/32
7 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 118

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In section XV of General Assembly resolution 44/201 of 21 December 1989, the General Assembly:

(a) Concurred with the view of the Secretary-General expressed in his report on conference services at Vienna, that, following the first several years of experience of the operation of common services at Vienna, an in-depth review of such services was needed during the biennium 1990-1991; 1/

(b) Welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct consultations with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other interested parties with a view to making necessary improvements;

(c) Invited the executive heads of the organizations located at the Vienna International Centre to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the process of these consultations;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to report at the most appropriate time on the progress of these consultations.

2. The present interim report is being submitted in order to appraise the Assembly of the activities undertaken in the course of 1990, to give information on future activities yet to be undertaken and to provide an indication of the steps needed effectively to implement the required improvements in the administrative arrangements at the Vienna International Centre.

I. BACKGROUND

3. The first organization within the United Nations system to be located in Vienna was the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which established its temporary headquarters at Vienna in 1957. By General Assembly resolution 2152 (XXI) of November 1966, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was established as an autonomous organization within the United Nations. The establishment of UNIDO was followed by the offer by the Austrian Government in February 1967 to provide for temporary premises and the construction, at its own expense, of a permanent headquarters for UNIDO. This offer was also extended to IAEA. Discussions between the United Nations and IAEA concerning the joint provision of certain administrative and conference services, first in the temporary headquarters and eventually in the permanent headquarters, began as early as 1967, and several common services were established soon after UNIDO was established at Vienna. In January 1974 a formal IAEA/UNIDO Working Group on Common Services for the Permanent Headquarters was established, which considered in detail all aspects of common services. In the meantime, the General Assembly, in its resolution 31/194 of 22 December 1976, approved the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the utilization of office accommodation and conference facilities at the Donaupark Centre, which included the transfer to that Centre of a number of United Nations offices. In anticipation of the transfer of those offices and given the prospect of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, which had been almost unanimously recommended at the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held at Lima in 1975, subsequent negotiations were accordingly undertaken on a tripartite basis with IAEA, UNIDO and the United Nations as equal partners. These negotiations culminated in the following:

(a) A tripartite agreement contained in the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in March 1977, between the United Nations, IAEA and UNIDO, acting as equal partners, establishing the management pattern for the Vienna International Centre common services;

(b) The establishment of a United Nations Co-ordinating and Planning Office at Vienna in 1978, subsequently named the United Nations Administrative Office in 1979 and United Nations Office at Vienna in 1980, followed by the appointment of a Director-General in 1982.

4. Upon the completion of the permanent headquarters, IAEA, UNIDO and a number of United Nations units (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Division for Narcotic Drugs and its related programmes (International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC)), the International Trade Law Branch of the Office of Legal Affairs, the secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)) moved to the Vienna International Centre in 1979.

5. The common services arrangement was predicated on the principle that certain functions should not be undertaken individually by Vienna International Centre occupants. These common services were allocated as follows:

Security and safety	United Nations
Buildings management	UNIDO
Catering services	UNIDO
Language training	UNIDO
Commissary	IAEA
Computer services	IAEA
Library services	IAEA
Medical services	IAEA
Printing and reproduction	IAEA

6. Functions for which each organization could assume responsibility for itself were not covered by the Memorandum of Understanding. These included public information, general services (communications, archives, records, inventory control, travel and transportation), finance (certification, approval, accounting, pay-roll, claims and invoices) and personnel. These functions, therefore, remained with both IAEA and UNIDO and reflected each organization's specific requirements.

7. After the establishment of the United Nations Office at Vienna, UNIDO continued to perform, on behalf of that Office, public information, general services and, with the exception of certification, all financial and personnel functions.

8. The imminent conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency necessitated the resolution of a number of issues between the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNIDO in 1985. Those included the distribution, between the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO, of common services covered under the Memorandum of Understanding and those previously performed by UNIDO on behalf of the other United Nations secretariat units located at Vienna. The Security and Safety Service was retained by the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO undertook to continue providing building management, catering and language training services.

9. As of 1 January 1986, when UNIDO became fully independent with the status of a specialized agency, resources previously administered by UNIDO on behalf of the United Nations in Vienna were transferred to UNIDO. It was further agreed that the administration of those functions not covered under the Memorandum of Understanding would be undertaken as joint services between the United Nations and UNIDO. Under this joint services arrangement, new responsibilities were entrusted to the United Nations Office at Vienna in the area of communications, and UNIDO agreed to continue to provide financial services (accounts, pay-roll, payments and treasury), general services (inventory control, purchases and contracts, travel and transportation) and limited personnel services, particularly in respect of the classification of General Service posts. These joint services arrangements were covered by separate agreements between the two organizations. Staff costs are budgeted in full by the organization providing the service with reimbursement from the user organization, either in the form of an agreed lump-sum or another cost-sharing formula. Non-staff costs of joint services are budgeted by each organization individually based on estimated or actual usage.

10. Certification, budgeting, financial reporting and monitoring functions remained with the United Nations Office at Vienna. In the electronic data processing (EDP) area, the maintenance of existing computer applications programmes and improvements therein should also have been the responsibility of the United Nations Office at Vienna. However, the recruitment freeze in 1986-1987 and the retrenchment exercise during 1988-1989 delayed recruitment against the posts intended for these functions. Consequently, UNIDO continued to perform these services in relation to administrative systems on behalf of the United Nations Office at Vienna on a reimbursable basis.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 1990 AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 44/201

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/201, two teams were sent to Vienna during the first half of 1990: one from the Management Advisory Service and another from the Internal Audit Division. The objective of the management survey was to review the organization, functions, staffing and operations of administrative and common services units in Vienna with a view to reducing duplication of effort, reducing costs of services and proposing improvements. The Internal Audit review was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls exercised by the United Nations Office at Vienna in respect of its participation in the common and joint services arrangements at the Vienna International Centre with a view to ensuring the following:

(a) The reliability and integrity of financial and operating information;

(b) Compliance with relevant agreements entered into between participating organizations and with the United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and the related policies and procedures;

(c) The efficient and economic use of United Nations resources.

12. In attempting to assess the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the administrative arrangements at Vienna, the survey teams examined the quality of common services provided covered under the Memorandum of Understanding and joint services arrangements agreed upon between the United Nations and UNIDO; reviewed the cost-sharing arrangements for these administrative arrangements; and considered the appropriateness of the allocation of joint services functions between UNIDO and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

13. With regard to the nine common services covered under the Memorandum of Understanding, listed in paragraph 5 above, the tentative conclusion reached was that they worked reasonably well in spite of some difficulties described in paragraphs 15 to 17 below.

14. The joint services arrangements, referred to in paragraph 9 above, when viewed as a whole have made it possible to keep a tight administrative support structure within the United Nations Office at Vienna and appear economical. This is mainly due, however, to the fact that to this date charges have been calculated on the basis of the cost of the services in 1986. The fixed amounts established at that

time have not been revised in an effort to keep cost of the reciprocal arrangements for joint services at a minimum level. The United Nations has now been notified that the current arrangements cannot continue in the future and a significant increase in the amount of reimbursement by the United Nations Office at Vienna to UNIDO for the cost of these services is anticipated in the next biennium.

1. Common services

Printing and reproduction

15. The printing and reproduction services provided by IAEA, although of high quality, are expensive in comparison to commercial rates in the area. Owing to the high cost of printing at the IAEA facility, therefore, users of this service have sought outside external printing contracts in order to obtain lower prices and faster turn-around times. The introduction of low-cost photo copiers and desk-top publishing equipment will further reduce the use of this common service in the future.

Library services

16. Whilst the quality of the library services provided by IAEA is considered excellent, there exists an increasing demand for quick reference to highly technical and specialized materials for a number of United Nations secretariat units. Consequently, the International Trade Law Branch maintains a separate trade law library. The Division of Narcotic Drugs also maintains specialized reference collections in full co-operation with and participation in the acquisition programme of the Vienna International Centre Library Service. Whilst the computerization of the Vienna International Centre Library catalogue and acquisition records has assisted the maintenance of specialized reference collections on a decentralized basis, consultations will have to take place with IAEA towards the integration of such collections in the library at the Vienna International Centre. The establishment of this arrangement would require a reassessment and revision of IAEA's acquisition and collection programmes and could be implemented only with the full concurrence of IAEA.

Computer services

17. The United Nations reimburses IAEA for its share in the cost of computer usage in respect of data-base maintenance for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and INCB. According to the surveys just completed, the IAEA data-base is somewhat outdated, lacks systems maintenance support staff and the overall arrangements for computer services, communication links and office automation programmes are not satisfactory. Furthermore, the United Nations used to reimburse UNIDO for payments to IAEA on its behalf in respect of computer usage for systems design and programming done for the United Nations Office at Vienna. As these systems have recently migrated to the UNIDO mainframe computer, which became operational on 1 July 1990, a decision on whether to use the IAEA mainframe or the newly acquired UNIDO computer facilities for all computer services needs to be made. A preliminary review undertaken in the context of the Integrated Management Information Systems (IMIS) project indicates that with the enhancement

of communication linkages and leased telecommunications lines, the United Nations Office at Vienna could possibly avail itself of the New York Computing Services and the International Computing Centre at Geneva. Pending implementation of IMIS, however, the United Nations Office at Vienna will continue to rely on UNIDO for the provision of mainframe computer service in support of the United Nations Office at Vienna's system requirements. The strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna's technological capacity is a prerequisite for meeting current and future needs in this area.

2. Joint services

Financial services

18. Until recently, UNIDO performed on behalf of the United Nations Office at Vienna all systems design and programming in the areas of accounting and documents control data systems. The cost of these services was covered under the joint financial services arrangements between these two organizations. The establishment of a small EDP services unit in the Division of Administrative and Common Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna has not until now eliminated the need for continued payments to UNIDO for some level of assistance in that respect. It should be borne in mind that the relevant programmes were written in the early 1980s and have required significant manual revisions to reflect changes in salary entitlements. It would be more efficient for the United Nations to develop a plan for the take-over of pay-roll, payments, system design and programming functions currently carried out by UNIDO for the United Nations Office at Vienna. The formulation of a pay-roll system for the United Nations Office at Vienna is one of the priority activities of IMIS. When completed, it would enable the United Nations Office at Vienna to undertake accounting, payments and pay-rolling functions on its own.

General services

19. UNIDO also provides certain general services functions on behalf of the United Nations Office at Vienna such as archives and records management, inventory control, purchase and contracts, travel and transportation. Whilst the administrative arrangements work well, property management, in particular inventory control, is often neglected. Periodic inventories by the United Nations Office at Vienna of its office furniture and equipment stocks would ensure accurate recording of the expendable and non-expendable property of the Organization. Further proposals for improvements in respect of these services will, however, largely depend on the establishment of a centralized procurement system in the United Nations and the application of the materials management system in the procurement activities of other offices.

Personnel services

20. Joint services arrangements have now become unnecessary as the United Nations Office at Vienna has recently taken over the limited functions previously provided by UNIDO.

3. Other administrative arrangments

21. In addition to common and joint services arrangements indicated in the preceding paragraphs, there are other administrative arrangements existing in Vienna: conference services, public information and major maintenance programmes.

Conference services

22. A separate report on the subject has been submitted on this subject (A/C.5/45/30).

Public information

23. Public information, whilst not under the direct responsibility of the Division of Administrative and Common Services, is also addressed in the present report owing to certain difficulties experienced in the existing arrangements between the United Nations and UNIDO.

24. It will be recalled that, in view of differences in priorities and approach to public information, separate public information units exist for the international organizations at Vienna. During the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, the United Nations and UNIDO maintained their respective information functions. The United Nations Information Centre at Vienna, however, performs accreditation functions for media and correspondents and operates the Visitors' Service at no charge to the other organizations. On the other hand, the Information Centre at Vienna has neither the capacity nor the resources for audio-visual services. The related requirements of audio-visual coverage of United Nations activities are met by UNIDO on behalf of the United Nations on an ad hoc and reimbursable basis. Owing to the lower priority attached by UNIDO to audio-visual activities, the coverage of conferences and public events at the Vienna International Centre at times proves inadequate. The high priority attached by the United Nations to audio-visual coverage as a means of promoting an informed understanding of its activities requires that sufficient resources be provided for this type of coverage.

Maintenance

25. An agreement between IAEA, the United Nations and the Government of Austria regarding the establishment of a common fund for major repairs came into effect on 1 January 1981, and was amended by an exchange of Notes in 1985 to include UNIDO, following its conversion into a specialized agency. Under the terms of the agreement, each of the four parties is required to contribute $25,000 annually to the Common Fund for Major Repairs. Replenishment of the Fund is made in equal shares by the parties to the Agreement during the subsequent years, provided that none of the international organizations are required to make a total payment in excess of $150,000 in any one calendar year, the Government of Austria being liable for meeting that portion of the cost in any one calendar year that exceeds the financial liability of the organizations.

26. Under article 6 of the agreement, the ceiling of the annual financial liability of the international organizations was to have been re-examined by the parties in 1986 after five years of operation of the Common Fund in the light of experience in the implemention of the agreement and/or agreed plans for major repairs. Article 8 further provided that 10 years after the entry into force of the agreement, namely in 1991, the parties should review the terms on which the Common Fund should continue, with due regard to the principle that there should be a ceiling on the annual financial liability of the international organizations and that that ceiling should be reviewed.

27. In view of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, the re-examination of the annual financial ceiling for each of the organizations participating in the Common Fund did not take place in 1986. Moreover, since the costs of major maintenance projects during the period 1981-1985 were below the total level of the fixed annual contributions to the Common Fund, the re-examination envisaged did not appear necessary at that time. As the building structures have aged, however, the contributions to the Common Fund have increased proportionately, although they are still within the total maximum ceiling of $150,000 for each of the parties to the agreement. In June 1990, IAEA, the United Nations and UNIDO requested the Government of Austria to extend, from 1991 to 1994, the existing terms of the annual financial liability covered under article 8 of the agreement. The arrangements have consequently remained unchanged. In the meantime, a review of major repairs required in 1991 and 1992 was undertaken in the course of 1990. Negotiations between the international organizations and the Government regarding the protocol on major repairs to be funded from the Common Fund and those to be financed by the Government are expected to take place during the course of the current biennium.

4. Cost-sharing arrangements

28. The surveys also focused on the cost-sharing arrangements of several common and joint services at Vienna. It appears that, owing to basic deficiencies in the existing cost-sharing arrangements, to the outdated data and factors in the determination of each organization's respective share of the cost of the services and to the difficulties encountered by the United Nations Office at Vienna in monitoring expenditures effectively in practically all areas covered by the review, the United Nations Office at Vienna has either undercharged for the services it rendered or was overcharged as a user organization.

29. The cost-sharing arrangements for common services covered under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and IAEA have been neither reviewed nor revised since the time they were formulated. At the time of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency, the initial United Nations share was reallocated between the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO on the basis of a projection of their respective use of those services. For example, the current distribution towards the cost of building management and security and safety services is 45.5 per cent for IAEA, 31.6 per cent for UNIDO and 22.9 per cent for the United Nations Office at Vienna, of which 5 per cent is reimbursed to the United Nations by UNRWA. Based on space occupancy, however, the percentage share of the United

Nations Office at Vienna for building management and security and safety (including UNRWA and organizations other than IAEA and UNIDO) should be 19.2 per cent. If the number of staff was used as the basis of cost-sharing arrangements, the percentage share of the United Nations Office at Vienna would be 20 per cent. In connection with the rates of reimbursement for library services, whilst costs were to have been shared on the basis of the number of Professional staff members, that portion of the cost shared by the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO was apportioned on a 50-50 basis regardless of the staff strengths of the two organizations.

30. As to the joint services arrangements, the agreed fixed-lump sum payments based on estimated usage and costs prevailing in 1986 continue to be applied to this date. The thorough review of the joint services which should have been undertaken after a full-year's operation of the arrangement did not take place. In the absence of an in-depth review, ad hoc arrangements are made, such as the continued reimbursement for services provided by UNIDO in the financial and other general services areas, or by the United Nations for communications service at the fixed levels established in 1986. The services of its telecommunications network continue to be provided free of charge by the United Nations. The current reimbursement payments for joint services, therefore, do not adequately cover the costs incurred by the servicing organization or accurately reflect the current use by the user organization.

III. CONCLUSION

31. The reviews undertaken in 1990 have pointed to the urgent need to reassess and restructure the administrative and common services arrangements at Vienna. In this context, it may also be necessary to reconsider the assignment of functions in the framework of common and joint services arrangements. At the present stage, it appears, in particular, that some functions that are currently assigned to UNIDO could more appropriately devolve on the United Nations. Activities such as security, communications, library services, language training and buildings management operations are very closely related to the servicing of conferences which, as will be indicated in document A/C.5/45/30, should come under the management and direction of the United Nations.

32. Furthermore, a thorough review of all common and joint services will be conducted for the purpose of determining the appropriate share of all users in the cost of each service. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the reimbursement for services is equitable, that the determination of the levels of services rendered is based on quantifiable data and that the reimbursement formula is relatively simple and lends itself to easy monitoring.

33. It is currently anticipated that the outcome of this review could be reflected in the initial appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly for the biennium 1992-1993. While it would clearly not be possible to include revised proposals for common services in Vienna in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the preparation of which is to begin shortly, it should prove feasible to submit revised estimates in this respect for approval by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. To that end,

intensive consultations would be undertaken with the secretariats of UNIDO and IAEA in the first months of 1991 with a view to formulating detailed proposals for revised administrative arrangements at Vienna. It is proposed that the General Assembly should delegate to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) authority to approve proposals based on these consultations at its spring session in 1991. Once approved by the Advisory Committee, these proposals could, in turn, be reviewed by the Industrial Development Board at its eighth session in July 1991 for UNIDO and by the Board of Governors of IAEA at its 1991 session in June. Revised estimates for common services at Vienna could thus be reviewed by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the basis of revised arrangements agreed to by all parties concerned.

34. In order to meet these deadlines, it would be necessary in the first place to assign the highest priority to sustained consultations with UNIDO and IAEA in early 1991 and subsequently to the preparation of revised estimates. The Department of Administration and Management of the Secretariat at Headquarters would, in that connection, be called to provide continued and increased support to the United Nations Office at Vienna. It remains true, however, that the main burden of the renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding and revisions to the joint services agreement will fall on the United Nations Office at Vienna, and in particular, on its Division of Administrative and Common Services. It is clear that the Division would require strengthening if it is to play an effective role in the discussions with the representatives of the other organizations.

35. As noted in the report of the Board of Auditors for the biennium ended 31 December 1989, 2/ the Division's current staff resources are insufficient. ACABQ in its related report 3/ emphasized the need for a speedy and substantial strengthening of administrative and budgetary functions and structures of the United Nations at Vienna. While it may be premature at the present stage to provide for the overall strengthening of the Division of Administrative and Common Services, which should reflect the revised structure of administrative services at Vienna that has yet to be finalized, it is already evident that the expanded functions of the Division will warrant the grading of the post of the head of the Division at the D-2 level. Furthermore, it is deemed essential that the establishment of a D-2 post to head the Division, and a related General Service support staff, should take place effective 1 January 1991 to ensure the rapid and successful conclusion of the negotiations with UNIDO and IAEA. The additional resources required for the establishment of these two posts (one D-2 and one General Service, other level) and some limited travel resources are estimated at $93,000. An appropriation of $93,000 would, therefore, be required under section 28I of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, an amount of $23,400 would be required under section 31, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

1/ A/C.5/44/24, para. 23.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/45/5), vol. I.

3/ A/45/570 and Corr.1.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/45/33
8 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 118

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Comprehensive review of the after-service health insurance programme

Report by the Secretary-General

1. Under section XIV of its resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present to it at its forty-fifth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a comprehensive review of the after-service health insurance programme (ASHI), taking into account the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 28G.4 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 1/ In that report the Advisory Committee noted that all retiring staff were entitled to participate in the after-service health insurance programme, irrespective of whether as staff members they had been charged against regular budget or extrabudgetary posts. While the Advisory Committee had no objection to that arrangement, it recommended that the Secretary-General explore means by which extrabudgetary activities might contribute towards the cost of the after-service health insurance programme. Accordingly, the present report sets out the salient issues relating to the after-service health insurance programme, with particular reference to the legislative and financial aspects, and also outlines the steps taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

2. Staff regulation 6.2 requires that the Secretary-General establish a scheme of social security for the staff, including provisions for health protection. In this connection, it should be noted that participation in the health insurance schemes has been, from the beginning, on an optional basis and remains so at the present time. In the early days of the United Nations, the health insurance schemes were made available to serving staff members only, without subsidy by the Organization. In resolution 1095 (XI) of 27 February 1957, the General Assembly authorized the

Secretary-General to broaden the health insurance schemes that had been in existence since the inception of the Secretariat and to finance them on the basis of an approximately equal sharing of the overall costs by the participating staff and the Organization, subject to the provision that a larger measure of assistance would be granted to staff in the lower salary levels.

3. Health insurance protection was extended to retired staff members in 1967, following the decision of the General Assembly taken at its 1501st plenary meeting on 20 December 1966, to approve the establishment of the after-service health insurance programme. Relevant details concerning the conditions under which staff separating from service, whether owing to retirement or disability, might be eligible for after-service health insurance benefits, as well as an outline of key developments in the programme, are set out in the annex to the present report.

4. As noted in paragraph 2 above, commencing in 1957, the costs of the United Nations health insurance programme have been shared between the participants, on the one hand, and the Organization, on the other. When the after-service health insurance programme was introduced in 1967, the cost-sharing arrangement was extended to cover both in-service and after-service participants, so that the aggregate contribution of both groups of participants accounted for 50 per cent of the total cost of the insurance programme, as mandated by the General Assembly. Taking into account the precept, established by the General Assembly in 1957 in resolution 1095 (XI), that individual contributions to the health insurance scheme should be set in relation to salary level, the contributions of ASHI participants were, at the outset, based on the schedule of payments applicable to in-service staff members. Thus, an after-service participant, based on the level of his or her gross pension, paid the same premium contribution as an in-service staff member at the equivalent net salary level.

5. With effect from 1 January 1974, the contribution scale for ASHI subscribers in receipt of the subsidy was reduced to 50 per cent of the contributions payable by staff members. It is important to bear in mind, however, that this internal cost-apportionment arrangement does not alter the underlying cost-sharing ratio between the Organization and the contributors to the health insurance plans as a group. It reflects, rather, the transfer of a portion of the overall subsidy from in-service to after-service participants.

6. In its resolution 38/235 of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly, inter alia approved a revision of the respective shares of the Organization and contributors, in line with a formula recommended by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and ACABQ. Implementation of the new cost-sharing arrangement, which became effective on 1 January 1984, has resulted in the application of a ratio of 2 to 1 between the share of the Organization and the contributors (in-service and after-service combined) covered under the Headquarters health insurance schemes.

7. From its modest scale at inception, the after-service health insurance programme has grown substantially in terms of both the number of participants and the cost. The growth in the programme since the mid-1980s has been particularly marked, stemming from demographic phenomena on the one hand and the escalation of

medical costs and the related insurance premiums on the other. As an indication of this growth, it should be noted that the average ASHI enrolment rose from 2,672 participants in the 1984-1985 biennium to 3,588 in the 1988-1989 biennium, an increase of 34.3 per cent. Over the same period, the organizational subsidy increased from $6.9 million to $12.6 million, an increase of 86.6 per cent.

8. As noted in paragraph 1 above, the Advisory Committee recommended in paragraph 28G.4 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 1/ that the Secretary-General explore means by which extrabudgetary activities could contribute to the cost of the after-service insurance programme. The Secretary-General shares the concern of the Advisory Committee in this regard and, in response to the Committee's recommendation, has carried out a preliminary examination of this question. At the present time, however, there does not appear to be a readily available mechanism for properly allocating the Organization's share of the cost of the insurance programme between the regular budget and extrabudgetary accounts.

9. A fundamental problem at the outset is to identify those ASHI participants who, as staff members, were charged against extrabudgetary posts and the specific extrabudgetary sources of funds concerned. Historically, such information has not been required as part of the process of establishing a staff member's entitlement to the after-service health insurance benefit. Consequently, the data available at present in this regard are incomplete. In the case of staff members whose after-service entitlements are administered at Headquarters (approximately 70 per cent of the total number currently enrolled in the programme) there does exist, however, a record of the post against which the staff member was charged at the time of retirement.

10. Based on available data relating to the end of 1989, approximately 250 out of 2,567 ASHI participants administered at Headquarters have been identified as having been charged against extrabudgetary posts at the time of retirement. The listing includes more than 40 different extrabudgetary accounts, a number of which are no longer in existence. For the majority of these accounts, only one or two staff members are shown as having been charged to them at the time of retirement. However, two extrabudgetary accounts, programme support and peace-keeping, reflect relatively substantial numbers of retired staff, 86 and 46, respectively.

11. From the information contained in paragraph 10 above, it might be inferred that approximately 10 per cent of the total number of former staff members enrolled in ASHI at the present time fall into the extrabudgetary category. However, such an inference does not appear to be warranted. It must be borne in mind that a staff member's eligibility for ASHI coverage may have been accumulated under several posts, both regular budget and extrabudgetary, so that the category of the final post may not accurately reflect the staff member's budgetary history for determining the appropriate source of funds to which the ASHI subsidy should be charged.

12. The data available at present, therefore, do not provide a satisfactory basis upon which to apportion the ASHI subsidy costs between the regular budget and the various extrabudgetary accounts. While, in theory, the pertinent records relating

to most of the present group of ASHI participants could be retrieved, the exercise of contructing an allotment account history for each retiree would be extremely time-consuming and laborious, as well as costly. Moreover, even if the budgetary history of all ASHI participants were readily available, it would be necessary to establish a practical methodology to determine the subsidy shares to be met from the regular budget and extrabudgetary sources of funds in the case of those staff members who encumbered both regular budget and extrabudgetary posts in the course of their careers with the Organization.

13. An alternative approach to the problem might be to determine the subsidy share between the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds on the basis of the relative proportions of regular budget and extrabudgetary staff costs. If this approach were to be adopted, the share of the ASHI subsidy to be funded extrabudgetarily would be determined each biennium in the light of the proportion of staff costs funded under extrabudgetary resources to total staff costs at the time that the budget estimates are being prepared. While such an approach would have the advantage of simplicity, it would not ensure that the ASHI subsidy would be properly apportioned. This is so because the relative proportions of regular budget and extrabudgetary staff costs which will obtain in 1991 or 1992 are unlikely to be equivalent to the relative proportions that would have been found 5 or 10 years ago when many of the present group of ASHI participants were enrolled in the programme.

14. In the light of the issues outlined above, the Secretary-General considers that implementation of a practicable mechanism whereby the ASHI subsidy pertaining to each eligible staff member is correctly apportioned among the sources of funds under which the staff member accrued entitlement to the benefit must await implementation of the integrated management information system (IMIS). With this in view, the IMIS components in the insurance area are being developed to meet the requirement that the allotment account history of staff members enrolled in a United Nations health insurance plan be tracked and available in the insurance data base. In this way, depending on the extent of the historical allotment account data which may be captured under IMIS, it is expected that the subsidy relating to new ASHI participants, as well as to a proportion of former staff members already enrolled in the programme, will be able to be apportioned between the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources.

15. The issues outlined in the paragraphs above notwithstanding, the Secretary-General proposes, as an interim measure, to take an initial step toward offsetting a portion of the ASHI subsidy against extrabudgetary sources of funds in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Specifically, on the basis of an analysis of the groups of participants whose posts, at the time of retirement, were charged against programme support and peace-keeping accounts, estimates of the related ASHI subsidy to be met from the respective sources of funds will be presented under section 28H of the proposed programme budget for the forthcoming biennium. At the same time, pending implementation of IMIS, the Secretary-General will continue to explore the means by which the contribution of extrabudgetary activities towards the cost of the after-service health insurance programme may be extended and refined. The Secretary-General will provide further information on this issue to the Advisory Committee at its spring session, in 1991.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2).

Annex

OUTLINE OF KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AFTER-SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMME

1. In a report submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session (A/6491 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General stated that it had become evident, on the basis of experience acquired over the years, that the original arrangement under which insurance coverage was automatically terminated upon cessation of service was "unduly restrictive" and could not be justified by reference to national or international practice. The report noted that it was common practice among Member States to provide after-service health protection for national civil servants and members of their families and that such after-service coverage was already available to former staff members of several specialized agencies. Following an examination of the feasibility of extending the health protection schemes to cover retired United Nations staff members, the Secretary-General concluded that such extension, subject to certain conditions of eligibility, was entirely feasible in terms of costs to participants, payment of contributions and provision of benefits.

2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposed that health insurance coverage be extended to staff members leaving the service of the United Nations at the age of retirement or for disability, provided that the staff member had been a contributory participant in a United Nations health insurance plan for a specified period. In the case of retirement, the qualifiying period would be 10 years and, in the case of termination for disability, 3 years. In all cases, coverage would be available only to those who were in receipt of periodic benefits from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), or under the rules governing compensation for service-incurred death, injury or illness. Dependants or survivors of a former staff member would be entitled to coverage under the programme, provided that they were covered by the United Nations health insurance plans at the time the staff member left the Organization, and the staff member had the necessary qualifying period of participation.

3. The Secretary-General estimated that, in the first year of the after-service health insurance programme, 1967, the additional cost to the Organization would amount to $20,000. Following the agreement to the Secretary-General's proposals by the Advisory Committee (A/6521) and on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 35 of its report (A/6605), the General Assembly approved the establishment of the after-service health insurance programme by its decision taken at its 1501st plenary meeting on 20 December 1966.

4. Commencing in 1968, ASHI coverage was extended to former staff members (and their eligible dependants) who separated between the ages of 55 and 60 years, provided that the staff member had at least 10 years of coverage under a United Nations health insurance plan and under the condition that the cost of participation in the after-service health insurance programme would be borne entirely by the former staff member. A similar provision was introduced in respect of staff members with less than three years of contributory participation in a

United Nations insurance plan and who separated from service under the rules governing compensation in the event of service-incurred death, injury or illness. With effect from 1 January 1970, former staff members who otherwise met the necessary eligibility requirements and who separated from service between the ages of 55 and 60 years became eligible for subsidized participation in the after-service health insurance programme.

5. In a note submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session (A/C.5/38/16), the Secretary-General proposed that, with effect from 1 January 1984, the eligibility requirements for participation in the after-service health insurance programme (ASHI) should be modified in order to bring them into line with the provisions of the UNJSPF. The report noted that the pertinent provisions of UNJSPF provide periodic benefits to participants after a minimum of five years and that participants were eligible for disability and survivor's benefits immediately upon joining the Pension Fund. The fact that the time periods required for ASHI benefits were longer than those required by UNJSPF for periodic benefits deprived an increasing number of staff members, particularly those who joined the Organization after age 50, of an important element in the social security package offered by the United Nations, bearing in mind the very high cost of health care that they had to bear in its entirety.

6. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposed that, with the concurrence of the General Assembly, ASHI coverage be available to staff members who upon retirement, at age 55 or later, had participated in a United Nations contributory health insurance plan for a minimum of five years, provided that those staff members paid the full premium for the period for which their participation during active service fell short of the 10-year minimum for subsidized ASHI coverage. Once their contributory in-service participation plus their unsubsidized, full premium cost after-service participation reached 10 years, they could be eligible to receive the ASHI subsidy. The Secretary-General also proposed that staff members separated for disability, as well as the eligible survivors of staff members who died in service, be eligible for ASHI benefits on a subsidized basis, irrespective of the period during which the staff member had participated in a contributory plan at the time of separation or death.

7. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), noting, in its report, a/ that the additional costs of the Secretary-General's proposals were expected to be low, indicated that it had no objection to the proposals. At the same time, however, the Advisory Committee considered that the question of financing the scheme should be kept under review. The General Assembly approved the modifications to the ASHI eligibility criteria by resolution 38/235 of 20 Decemer 1983. The eligibility criteria for ASHI benefits described above remain in force at the present time.

8. In response to a request by the General Assembly contained in section V of resolution 38/232 of 20 December 1983, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), in paragraph 162 of its eleventh annual report b/ to the General Assembly, recommended that after-service health insurance be provided to locally recruited staff members who had participated in the health care scheme under appendix E of the United Nations Staff Rules and that appendix E be reformulated to provide for a

plan that would be contributory and whose benefit structure would be comparable to other schemes offered by the organizations in the common system.

9. In a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session (A/C.5/41/17) the Secretary-General, on the basis of a review of the features of the existing, non-contributory medical expense assistance plan as provided under appendix E, set forth the financial and benefit structure of a revised medical insurance plan which would replace the medical expense assistance plan at certain field duty stations. The medical insurance plan would make available after-service coverage to former staff members and their eligible family members under conditions similar to those pertaining to other categories of staff. In addition, arrangements would be made to allow for the participation of former staff members and their eligible dependants who retired before the effective date of the introduction of the new plan on 1 January 1987, but who otherwise met the eligibility conditions.

10. It was estimated that at inception of the new plan some 120 former staff members would join immediately and that a further 25 retirees would join during the course of 1987. The additional subsidy cost, estimated at $95,000, would be absorbed under the resources already appropriated for after-service health insurance under section 28K of the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. In section III of resolution 41/209 of 11 December 1986, the General Assembly approved the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/41/17) on health insurance coverage for locally recruited staff in the General Service and related categories at designated duty stations. Although the medical insurance plan was expected to come into effect on 1 January 1987, finalization of the related administrative arrangements and their promulgation among the duty stations concerned delayed implementation of the new scheme, including the after-service provisions, until 1 September 1987. The estimate of the after-service enrolment under the medical insurance plan provided in the Secretary-General's report has proved to be rather accurate as 150 retired local staff members had participated in the plan by the end of 1989.

11. From the beginning of ASHI until 1989, participants remitted their premium contributions to the United Nations on the basis of a twice-yearly invoice. While this procedure was adequate during the early years of the programme when the number of participants was relatively small, it proved to be administratively cumbersome and inefficient as the enrolment grew. With a view to streamlining the programme from the administrative perspective as well to the advantage of participants, a system whereby premium contributions could be deducted monthly from the retired staff member's periodic pension benefit was introduced, on a voluntary basis, commencing in 1989. A majority of the present ASHI participants are now entered in the pension deduction system, and it is expected that the premium contributions of virtually all participants will be administered in this manner by the end of the current biennium.

12. The streamlining of the administration of ASHI outlined above is especially important at this time in view of the current and projected pace of enrolment. It is expected that an additional 250 former United Nations staff members will be enrolled in the programme by the end of 1990, and a further 300 retirees are projected to enter the programme in 1991.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/38/7/Add.1-23), document A/38/7/Add.9.

b/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/40/30 and Corr.1).

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/45/34
9 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 118 and 144

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/45/L.3

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 34th meeting, on 8 November 1990, the Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/45/L.3 by a vote of 94 to none, with 1 abstention. A statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.6/45/L.6.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 6, 7 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.6/45/L.3, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization would hold its next session from 4 to 22 February 1991;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to complete the work on the preparation of the draft handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, on the basis of the outline elaborated by the Special Committee and in the light of the views expressed in the course of the discussions in the Sixth Committee and in the Special Committee, and to submit it, in its final form, to the Special Committee at its session in 1991;

(c) Request the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

(d) Decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

B. Relationship of requests to proposed programme of work

3. The activities proposed fall under chapter 3, "International justice and law", programme 3, "Progressive development and codification of international law", subprogramme 2, "Study of legal questions and elaboration of codification instruments", of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 as revised. 1/ Provision has been made under section 26, "Legal activities", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 2/ for the substantive servicing of the Special Committee as outlined in programme element 2.2, "Substantive servicing of meetings", under programme 3, "Progressive development and codification of international law", which is carried out by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. With regard to the request in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution that the Secretary-General complete the work on the preparation of the draft handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, it will be recalled that the draft handbook was one of the outputs listed under programme element 3.2 of subprogramme 3, "Legal research", within programme 3, "Progressive development and codification of international law", of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. While most of the substantive work for the preparation of the handbook had been completed by the end of 1989, a further review was carried out in 1990 in the light of comments by Governments. It is thus estimated that no additional resource requirements would arise in relation to the completion of the draft handbook.

5. It is assumed that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/45/L.3, the Special Committee would hold a three-week session from 4 to 22 February 1991 in New York. The meeting would require the provision of interpretation in the six official languages of the General Assembly. There would be 330 pages (5 documents) of pre-session documentation that would include the final text of the draft handbook on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, which the Secretary-General would be requested to complete under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. There would also be 60 pages (15 documents) of in-session documentation and 32 pages (1 document) of post-session documentation, to be issued in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

6. The related conference-servicing requirements are estimated on a full-cost basis at $583,000, broken down as follows:

		$
I.	Pre-session documentation	
	(330 pages of 5 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	343 700
II.	Meeting servicing	
	(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	138 300
III.	In-session documentation	
	(60 pages of 15 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	67 400
IV.	Post-session documentation	
	(32 pages of 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	33 600
	Total	583 000

E. Potential for absorption

7. The above cost estimates are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 of the programme budget for the 1990-1991 biennium and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1990-1991. 3/ However, as indicated in paragraph 29.5 of the programme budget, 4/ the 1990-1991 level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings that had been programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in the past years.

8. It is thus estimated that no additional cost would be incurred under section 26 or 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.6/45/L.3.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), amended by ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/43/6).

2/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

3/ Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/45/32), chap. I.

4/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II, sect. 29.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/45/35
13 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 118 and 18

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/45/L.16 and A/45/L.17

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 the General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Subsequently, the mandate of the Special Committee has been extended annually by successive General Assembly resolutions, most recently by resolution 44/101 of 11 December 1989. Also annually, the General Assembly approves an extensive programme of dissemination of information on decolonization, the latest of which was adopted under resolution 44/102 of 11 December 1989. By specific resolutions dealing with individual Territories, the General Assembly, each year, requests the Special Committee to keep under review the situation in these Territories.

2. The activities contained in the above-mentioned draft resolutions would fall under chapter 4, Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization, programme 2, Decolonization, of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991), as revised. 1/ Furthermore, the information activities as proposed in draft resolution A/45/L.17 would fall under chapter 9 of the medium-term plan, Public information, as revised. 2/

3. It will be recalled that, since the biennium 1988-1989, the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 includes provisions for the estimated cost of the expected activities of the Special Committee, in view of their "perennial" character. The activities are covered in section 3A.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 3/ The related appropriation under that subsection amounts to $540,700 for the biennium. Furthermore, the substantive servicing of the Special Committee is covered under various programme elements of programme 2, Decolonization, of section 3B of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, the information activities in relation to decolonization have been programmed under programme elements 1.1 and 1.5 of subprogramme 1, Promotional services, and under various programme elements of subprogramme 2, Information services, of section 27, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 4/ as amended by the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session. 5/

I. ACTIVITIES PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

4. The activities called for in the draft resolutions, along with the estimated requirements at full cost, are presented below in relation to the programme narratives under the corresponding sections of the 1990-1991 programme budget. A comparative analysis of the programme of work of the Special Committee as approved for 1990 and as projected for 1991 appears in annex I to the present statement.

A. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/45/L.16)

5. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 5, 12, 14 and 15 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1990, including the programme of work envisaged for 1991 (para. 5);

(b) Request the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular:

(i) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

(ii) To make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

(iii) To continue to examine the compliance of Member States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(iv) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of visiting missions to those Territories whenever the Special Committee deems it appropriate, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the population of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

(v) To take all necessary steps to enlist world-wide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations (para. 12);

(c) Request the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide or continue to provide to the newly independent and emerging States all possible assistance in the economic, social and other fields (para. 14);

(d) Request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the various resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee (para. 15).

6. The activities required for the implementation of the requests contained in paragraphs 5 and 12 of the draft resolution are referred to by the Special Committee in paragraphs 121 to 131 of its annual report to the General Assembly. 6/ In that connection paragraph 3.11 of the proposed programme budget for the 1990-1991 biennium 3/ indicates that, on the basis of the Special Committee's programme of work approved by the General Assembly for 1989, it has been anticipated that the Special Committee might carry out the following activities during the 1990-1991 biennium:

(a) Sending every year up to two visiting missions of two and a half weeks' duration to the Territories;

(b) Holding consultations and contacts on the question of decolonization with:

(i) Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (up to 20 missions of consultation of one week's duration each year);

(ii) The Organization of African Unity (OAU) (up to four missions of consultation of one week's duration each year);

(iii) The President of the Economic and Social Council during regular sessions of the Council;

(c) Participating each year in up to 15 conferences, seminars and other special events dealing with decolonization sponsored by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as by the United Nations bodies concerned;

(d) Inviting in consultation, as appropriate, with OAU and the national liberation movements concerned, individuals who could provide the Special Committee with information on specific aspects of the situation in the Territory.

7. It is estimated on the basis of that information that the 1991 draft programme of regular activities proposed in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly is adequately reflected in section 3A.2 of the 1990-1991 programme budget. The full cost of implementing the programme of regular activities under draft resolution A/45/L.16 in 1991 is estimated at $270,200 and a breakdown of this estimate appears in annex I to the present document. In respect of the activities listed under paragraph 6 (b) (i) above it is estimated that, during 1991, up to 12 missions of consultations will be held with specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations on the questions of decolonization. Similarly, regarding paragraph 6 (c) above it is estimated that, during 1991, participation in meetings arranged by NGOs will be limited to 10 on the basis of experience over the past years. The activities referred to in paragraph 6 (d) above will not be carried out in 1991. Instead, arrangements will be made for the appearance before the Committee of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories. No resources are proposed for that activity since the particulars are not known at the present time. Should the need arise, it is estimated that the related requirements could be met from within available resources.

8. As regards the activities proposed in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required for their implementation at the present stage. Should the need for the United Nations assistance to be provided to particular States arise in the course of 1991, the plans for those activities would be submitted to the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council for consideration in due course.

9. The activities referred to in paragraph 15 of draft resolution A/45/L.16 have also been programmed in terms of substantive servicing of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies under programme 2, Decolonization, of section 3B of the 1990-1991 proposed programme budget. The related resources have been approved under section 3B of the 1990-1991 programme budget. No additional resources for substantive servicing of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies would therefore be required. Furthermore, the meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies at Headquarters are included in the 1991 calendar of meetings and conferences 7/ and their cost would be accommodated from within the resources approved under section 29 of the 1990-1991 programme budget.

10. With regard to the indications contained in paragraphs 130 and 132 of the Special Committee's report 6/ that it might hold a series of meetings away from Headquarters in 1991, it should be recalled that the Special Committee is authorized under the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1654 (XVI) and 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 to meet elsewhere than at United Nations

Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. The Special Committee would take advantage of any invitations that it might receive in that connection. As soon as the particulars of such meetings are available and subject to the availability of the requisite conference services and facilities, the Secretary-General would submit to the Special Committee a statement of the related programme budget implications pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in that regard and would seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedures if that need is warranted.

B. Dissemination of information on decolonization (A/45/L.17)

11. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization (para. 1);

(b) Request the Secretary-General, having regard to the suggestions of the Special Committee, to continue to take concrete measures through all the media at his disposal, including publications, radio and television, to give widespread and continuous publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, and, inter alia:

(i) To continue, in consultation with the Special Committee, to collect, prepare and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to the problems of decolonization and, in particular, to continue to publish the periodical Objective: Justice and other publications, special articles and studies, including the Decolonization series, by increasing the information on all the Territories under consideration by the Special Committee, and to select from them appropriate material for wider dissemination by means of reprints in various languages;

(ii) To seek the full co-operation of the administering Powers concerned in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(iii) To intensify the activities of all United Nations information centres;

(iv) To maintain a working relationship with OAU and other appropriate organizations by holding periodic consultation and exchanging relevant information;

(v) To enlist, with the close co-operation of United Nations information centres, the support of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in decolonization in the dissemination of the relevant information;

(vi) To continue to provide full press release coverage for all meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

(vii) To ensure the availability of the necessary facilities and services to that end;

(viii) To report to the Special Committee on the measures taken in implementation of the present resolution (para. 3);

(c) Request the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (para. 5).

12. The activities required for the implementation of these requests are referred to by the Special Committee in paragraphs 127 and 128 of its annual report to the General Assembly. 6/ They have been programmed in the 1990-1991 proposed programme budget under:

(a) Section 3B, programme 2, Decolonization, subprogramme 3, Co-ordination and information, programme element 3.1;

(b) Section 27A, subprogramme 1, Promotional services, programme elements 1.1 and 1.5 and subprogramme 2, Information services.

13. The related resources are included in the appropriations under sections 3 and 27 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

II. CONCLUSIONS

14. On the basis of information provided above, it is estimated that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/45/L.16 and A/45/L.17 no modifications in the programme of work for 1990-1991 as contained in sections 3A, 3B and 27 of the programme budget would be required.

15. Although the financial requirements for the activities of the Special Committee, at full cost, are estimated at $270,200 for 1991 by applying the previous ratio of 70 per cent of actual utilization of resources in the light of experience over the past three bienniums, it is estimated that no more than $189,000 would be required. The unspent balance of the 1990-1991 appropriation is $206,400, hence the estimated requirements of $189,000 fall within available resources. Thus, on the basis of the information provided in paragraphs 4 to 13 above and in annex II to the present statement, it is estimated that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/45/L.16 and A/45/L.17 no additional resources over and above those already appropriated under sections 3 and 27 for the 1990-1991 biennium would be required.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), chap. 4, paras. 4.6-4.9 and 4.22-4.34, and ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1), chap. 4.

2/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/43/6 and Corr.1), chap. 9; and ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16), part I, para. 118.

3/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), paras. 3.8 to 3.12.

4/ Ibid., vol. II, sect. 27, part A, Programme narrative.

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), paras. 260-269.

6/ A/45/23 (Part I), chap. I.

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 32 (A/45/32, annex II).

Annex I

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE 1990 AND 1991 PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (AT FULL COST)

	1990 A/C.5/44/46		1991	
	Number of events	$	Number of events	$
I. Regular activities				
1. Visiting missions	2	78 200	2	73 500
2. Missions of consultation with specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations; participation in these activities	20	161 300	12	106 200
3. Missions of consultation with OAU	4	47 900	4	50 500
4. Mission of consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council	1	6 800	1	7 100
5. Missions of participation in activities by NGOs	15	46 500	10	32 900
6. Participation of national liberation movements in the Committee's meetings at Headquarters	-	5 800	-	-
Total I	-	346 500	-	270 200

	1990 A/C.5/44/46		1991	
	Number of events	$	Number of events	$
II. Programme of activities of the Special Committee in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration	-	414 900	-	-
III. Additional activities of DPI in relation to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration	-	211 100	-	-
Grand total	-	972 500	-	270 200
IV. Estimated 1991 requirements (on the basis of a 70 per cent ratio of projected actual expenditures to full cost)	-	-	-	189 000
V. Uncommitted resources against the existing appropriation approved under section 3A.2 of the 1990-1991 programme budget	-	-	-	206 400

Annex II

ANALYSIS OF THE LEVEL OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES OF ANNUAL PROGRAMMES OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

	Full costs of regular programme of activities $	Actual expenditures $	Rate of utilization %
1984	316 300	157 700	50.0
1985	221 400	92 900	42.0
1986	269 500	96 800	36.0
1987	308 900	41 000	13.3
1988	307 700	48 700	15.8
1989	331 400	124 600	37.6
1990	346 500	20 300 a/	5.9

a/ Estimated. Excludes estimated expenditures ($314,000) for activities related to the special programme in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration. The low level of expenditures is attributable to the decision of the Committee to give priority to the special programme.